

CHRONOMETERS.
With the latest improvements in the equipment of United States vessels for sea service one of the essential qualifications of their is the marine chronometers, instruments of peculiar construction and perfection in workmanship, by which time is measured with extreme accuracy, when determining geographical longitudes, and ascertaining the difference of time.

One of the most essential and practical features of the United States navy is the custody of these delicate instruments, which are thoroughly tested before entering the service, and requires much care and attention from three to six months in a year.

They are compared in the chronometer room at the observatory a temperature room in which the testings are conducted, where the influence of the hydrographic conditions of the atmosphere upon the running of chronometers is tested. The rooms are heated by circulation of hot water, the fuel being gas controlled by electricity, and is cooled by an ice refrigerator.

The chronometers are compared daily between 11 and 11:30 o'clock a.m. with the mean time standard clock, and the errors and rates are worked up every twelve hours. In these mean rates calculations are made to the nearest quarter of a second.

Those received at the observatory are placed on trial prior to their purchase by the government and are tested at the temperatures between 45 and 70 degrees F., fifty-five, 70 and 85 degrees F., respectively, between

the extremes of temperature in which they are used.

Chronometers are selected and viewed to see if the temperature in which they are used under various conditions makes them have more or less variation than others, and those which mate the reverse.

When called for, they are taken direct from the observatory through the navy department to their destination, while still running, with the greatest care. They are delivered to the navigation officer of the navy yard or of the vessel, as the case may be, whence the supervision of the chronometers ceases until their return.—New York Times.

SUMPTUARIES.
The ancients slept on the floor or on a divan covered with a mat, during the middle ages beds were made of rushes, heather or straw. It is believed that feather beds were known to the Romans, since a mention by one of the poets. It is curious that they slept on feathers is supposed to refer to this kind of bed. Helligabala had an air cushion, and also an air mattress of 222 air bubbles. These beds were employed by the better classes in England during the days of Henry VIII. though they were considered luxuries and were expensive. The bedsteads of the Egyptians, Romans and Greeks closely resembled our beds. The Russian peasants place of beds on top of the family oven for warmth, as well as birth by fire. To the present day bedsteads Holland and some parts of Germany are fitted up with two feather beds, on which the sleeper lies while the is used for warming.

Getting Spotted.
A five-year-old divorcee that always gets the bill of fare, Mother-in-law, as a William—Well, which is the difference the man or the lady? His wife, what's she like? He's a good man, she's a good woman, she's a good mother, she's a good wife, she's a good daughter, she's a good sister, she's a good friend, she's a good neighbor, she's a good citizen, she's a good person.

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